

discharged from their Service, from becoming burthensome to the Public, and to prevent Slaves from being manumitted by the last Will and Testament of their Masters; Leave is given: *Ordered*, That the Committee of Laws do prepare and bring in a Bill accordingly.

Col. *Hooper*, from the Committee of Laws, delivers to Mr. Speaker the following Ingrossed Address; *viz.*

To the Honourable BENJAMIN TASKER, Esq; President of his Lordship's Honourable Council in Maryland, and Commander in Chief thereof;

The humble ADDRESS of the House of DELEGATES of said Province.

May it please your Honour,

WE his Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Delegates of the Freemen of the said Province, in Assembly convened, return your Honour our unfeigned Thanks, for your kind Speech at the Opening of this Session.

It is with much Concern we reflect on the Loss sustained by this Province, in the Death of our late worthy Governor: But at the same Time, it affords us great Satisfaction, that the Administration of the Government hath devolved upon your Honour, who are certainly under all the Ties of Nature and Interest to promote the Happiness of *Maryland*: And you may be assured, that our ready and hearty Concurrence shall never be wanting, with every Measure that can be devised, for the Ease and Prosperity of the Good People of this Province; which we are under every Obligation of Nature, Interest, and Duty, to promote and advance to the utmost of our Power.

As we have the same Motives to suggest the Means, and the same End to accomplish, with your Honour, we flatter ourselves that the Public Business will be carried on with the utmost Harmony, Dispatch, and as little Expence to the Country as possible.

Ordered, That Mr. *Wootton* and Mr. *Stoddert* do acquaint his Honour the President that this House hath prepared an Address to be presented to him, and desires to know when and where he will please to receive it: They return and acquaint Mr. Speaker, that the President signified he was ready to receive the Address immediately in the Conference Chamber.

Ordered, That Col. *Hooper*, with thirteen more, do present the Address.
The House adjourns until 2 of the Clock.

Post Meridiem.

The House met according to Adjournment.

Mr. *Oldham* and Mr. *Edmonson* appeared in the House.

His Honour the President communicates to Mr. Speaker the following Answer.

Gentlemen of the Lower House of Assembly,

I N Answer to your Address, I assure you that I am, and always shall be, very desirous to give you all the Satisfaction in my Power on every Occasion. I had a Commission from the late Lord Proprietary, dated December 23, 1743. to be President of the Council. Upon the Demise of his Lordship, a Commission was sent in by the present Lord Proprietary and his Guardians, to the late Governor, with Orders and Instructions to be pursued by him; by the second of which, he was directed and required to "fill up the Vacancies in the Council, which had been occasioned by the Death of the late Lord Proprietary, with the Names of the former Counsellors, or of so many of them as should, at the Time the said Instructions should come to his Hands, be living; with the Addition of such others as he should find necessary, in the Room of such of the said Counsellors as should be then dead."

[June, 1752.]

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